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1841

A
COMMERCIAL VIEW,
AND
GEOGRAPHICAL SKETCH,
OF THE
B R A S I L S
IN SOUTH AMERICA,
AND OF THE
Island of MADEIRA;

BEING A DESCRIPTION OF

The Portuguese COLONIES, ISLANDS, CITIES, CHIEF TOWNS, HARBOURS, RIVERS, &c. &c. together with their CLIMATE, SOIL, and PRODUCE; TRADE, RELIGION, MANNERS, CUSTOMS, &c.

Serving as a Guide to the COMMERCIAL WORLD, and pointing out to the Manufacturing Towns of

Sheffield,	Leeds,	Stroud,
Birmingham,	Northampton,	Dursley,
Manchester,	Nottingham,	Wooton,
Stockport,	Coventry,	Painswick, &c.

New Sources of Wealth and Springs of Industry,

By directing their Attention to the Formation of such Goods as are consumed in the New World.

Instructed, Ships shall sail to quick Commerce,
By which remotest Regions are ally'd,

Which makes one City of the Universe,
Where some may gain, and all may be supply'd. DRYDEN.

By T. ASHE, Esq.

Who travelled the Continent of America several Years.

LONDON:

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A

COMMERCIAL VIEW

OF THE

BRASILS, MADEIRA,

&c.

To a commercial intercourse with foreign nations we may justly attribute the stability of empire, and the opulence of a people, because it encourages an universal spirit of industry; removes local prejudices, and elevates the mind to magnanimity and wisdom. Whatever seems necessary for sensual or intellectual gratifications; for the ease, convenience, or elegance of life, are primarily

or mediately communicated by commerce. And, in proportion as commerce has been encouraged or depressed by different states, their progress in arts, manufactures, and science, is correctly marked; and by them the virtues of their princes, and the vigour of their laws.

Nothing more amply demonstrates the truth of this remark than the prosperity of the British empire, which is peculiarly indebted to commerce, for its improvement in knowledge and the polite arts, for its riches and grandeur, for the glory of its navy, and, in short, for the great bulk of all its solid comforts and conveniences.

The necessity of commerce, as the fountain of industry and social intercourse, is a principle of nature

implanted in our humanity, seconded by a wise ordination of the Deity, in quantity to particular parts of our earth, what other parts do not afford; whence an exchange of one commodity for another, in the primitive ages of the world, seems to have laid the foundation of peace and good-will amongst nations, upon principles of reciprocal advantage and mutual convenience, the strongest cements the universe affords when cultivated as they ought.

However in contemplating the advantage of commerce, it is difficult to avoid casting behind us a look at the better times of our history, when the affairs of this country were administered with prosperity from the reign of Elizabeth, till the present war; during which period the name of England was respected in

every land, her alliance courted as the badge of honor, and the pledge of safety in the remotest parts of the Continent, her protecting wisdom revered by all the nations as their common shelter from oppression, and her trade and manufactures diffused through every clime.

How mightily have these things been since changed! How contracted is the field of that commerce which once extended so wide! The overgrown empire of France has embraced it all within its own limits, and she employs in completing the *incorporation of Europe*, by an intermediate process, which assimilates its heterogeneous parts, and prepares them for an union which has in view the destruction of our commerce, and consequently of our power. Her sway over the princi-

palities and kingdoms whom *she calls into existence*, is absolute and certain; her influence is hourly gaining ground. At the same time it is true, should the course of events maintain the nominal separation of those dependent states, they may at some future period, revolt from her federal empire, and suffer commerce to flow in its usual bed; but, for years to come, they are as subservient to her purposes, as if they had no separate names or consequence apart.

The fact is, with the fortunate exception of ourselves, Europe is laid at the feet of France, and nothing is to be beheld but sights of unexampled humiliation and acts of tyranny and dread!

The independence of the Continent is lost; and all the prospects of which it was the foundation to us—and the hopes of external influence, and the more solid expectation of domestic improvement and wealth, are vanished from that quarter of the globe.

To a country, in the circumstances of ours, depending entirely on commerce for its riches and support; crowded beyond all others with a population of industrious and skilful inhabitants; covered with warehouses, manufactories, canals, docks, wharfs, and all other acquisitions of ingenuity and labour; with its paper circulation, its public debts, its commercial credit; its various factitious qualities of nice and complicated system of most artificial society; and, above all, with its vast accumulation

of wealth, acquired through a long course of ages, and depending entirely on the promotion of commerce, and the diffusion of manufactures; —to a country like this, I am free to repeat, such a retrospect is peculiarly afflicting, and sufficient to repress the energy of the most zealous mind.

But, in moments embittered by such gloomy considerations, and when we see the access to the Continent of Europe so hermetically sealed up, we ought to be peculiarly grateful to Providence for casting open the doors of the West, and for disclosing to us the avenues of the New World: for giving us an influence in South America, which will invigorate our commerce, and ultimately take as much of our manufactures, or more, as are now denied

to the oppressed nations which were once wont to purchase them of us. For it is not to be understood that the Brasils is the extent of our new commercial influence: on the contrary it extends through the whole of South America; as, through the means of the Portuguese, goods will find their way from the shores of the Atlantic to the Pacific Ocean, and from the Isthmus of Panama to the Streights of Magellan: which embraces the finest country of the same magnitude in the world, and peopled by 40,000,000 of inhabitants, abounding in riches, and wanting only our manufactures to possess every comfort of life.

But I shall not dwell on generalities, or subject myself to be accused of flattering my countrymen with the representation of visions which they

might consider as no more than the creation of my own mind ; and I shall proceed at once to state particular facts, without stopping to embellish them with any meretricious ornament.

It is surely unnecessary to state how prodigious a general accession of trade and force our influence in South America secures, and how *paramount* it is to that of which the present state of Europe bereaves us. It is sufficient to observe, that the commerce maintained by Spain, Italy, Holland, Germany and France, with Portugal, now devolves on this country ; and that, if we adopt the manufactures of the above nations, and convey them together with our own to the Brasils, in British bottoms, the rise of new manufactories and the prosperity of the old, must

be the inevitable consequence, and the extension of commerce and shipping will be great, in as much as we multiply our commercial objects and carry on new sources of trade ourselves, which have hitherto been in the exclusive hands of neutrals and enemies. For it must be well known to the commercial world that, even previously to the entire degradation of the Continent, we surrendered much of our traffic to neutrals, and saw our own vessels perish in port, while those of other countries were laden with produce, and became the general carriers.

The unprecedented length of the war, and the renewal of hostilities after so short an interval of peace, increase still further the inducement, or rather the necessity of employing neutral nations in the

commerce formerly carried on by the belligerent alone.

For a few years of war the privation of certain articles of necessity or luxury, may be endured; but this becomes at length intolerable, and overcomes every restraint which either government or the opposing interests of traders can create. Those traders themselves, too, when a war has lasted long, gradually shift their capital into new channels, and withdraw more and more from the hazardous speculations, in which, during a short period of hostility, they might be contented or compelled to continue.

The lines of employment which they thus leave, become, in consequence, open to neutrals, who, till lately, carried on the various branches

of foreign trade, from which they were formerly excluded. Thus it has happened, from the combined effects of our astonishing naval superiority, and the unprecedented length of the war, that almost all the foreign commerce of France, and much of our own, have fallen into the hands of neutral nations, and particularly of the Americans, who have the greatest facilities of maritime carriage, and the most rising commercial system. But under the present circumstances of nations, and with a region so extensive as the Brasils, laid open to our commerce, we can restore to our shipping its former superiority, and make no voluntary concessions to neutrals, who, for so many years, have not only encroached on our interests, but promoted those of our enemies.

From hence it appears that our introduction to South America, by means of the Portuguese, is a measure repugnant to this country with events of the highest consequence; events which must extend our trade and manufactories; multiply our shipping, and secure that wealth and prosperity with which we were so recently threatened to be denied. London, Liverpool, and Bristol, must shortly experience the renovating effects of the Brazilian commerce.

I now proceed to shew the very favorable dominion it must have over many, possibly over all, of our manufacturing towns.

1. BIRMINGHAM. It is notoriously known, that of the population of Portugal, 30,000 were artists and

mechanics, a great proportion of whom were employed in fabricating different articles in jewellery and hardware, for the New World.

In the city of Lisbon, two of the best streets, called Gold and Silver Street, were entirely occupied by jewellers, lapidaries, gold and silver-smiths, and toymen, amounting to the number of 1000 families, who, together with a great proportion of the other artists of the kingdom, and to whom I have alluded, are deprived of bread, or else reduced to labour for it in a different manner from what they originally did. And yet the Brasils must be furnished with household utensils for an increased population; with implements of husbandry for a country suddenly to rise out of the woods; with arms and trinkets calculated

for Indian traffic; with ornaments suited to a people delighting in splendid embellishments, and with jewellery and objects of luxury fitted for a rising court.

And by whom is the Brasils to be furnished with these various objects of ornament and use? Undoubtedly by the British, and individually, and for the most part by the manufacturers of Birmingham; and who will receive, in lieu of such fabric, the gold, silver, and precious stones, which were formerly exported to Lisbon, and there coined into money, or framed into trinkets of jewellery, or into church ornaments, such as gold and silver crosses, idols, images, and saints.

It behoves the manufacturers of Birmingham, however, to be aware

of the nature and quality of the ornaments worn in the Brasils.

The Portuguese never changing their fashions, and wearing at this day decorations similar to those worn by their ancestors some hundred years since, it becomes necessary to take the fashion *from*, and not impose it *on them*. Their fashions are in fact prejudices, and prejudices revolt against innovation.

Perhaps it would be a profitable measure for wealthy houses to send an agent to Brasil, whose duty it would be to take drawings, designs, and models of every article of court, *bourgeois*, and Indian, use and decoration, and therefore enable the employers to send nothing to the country, contrary to the prejudices, as I observed, and taste, and sentiment of

the people. *African goods* will by no means suit.

The domestic negroes of the *Brazils* wear none but solid gold trinkets, consisting of collars, bracelets, and chains; and plates for the forehead, breast and shoulders, and crucifixes and molten images to suspend from these various articles. And the field negroes, and mertchoes wear none but trinkets of pure materials. The *Indian goods* to be sure resemble in some degree the *African*, but these are well known to those who formerly and lately supplied much of their consumption through the organ of the *Lisbon market*.

On a moderate calculation, then, founded on the destruction of the working gold and silversmiths in *Portugal*; on the accession to us of the

diamond trade of Lisbon, and on the open intercourse with the richest country known to the world, and the other important grounds I have stated, it appears that Birmingham, by driving a judicious and salutary trade with the Brasils, cannot turn less than 500,000*l.* sterling a year. A sum far short of what the Jews of Portugal made out of their contracted traffic with Madeira and the South Western Colonies.

To deal in diamonds, however requires much skill and penetration. Those of Brasil are not of so fine a water as those of Hindoostan. The reason perhaps is, that those of India are usually found in yellow ferruginous earth, under rocks of quartz or sand-stone, and sometimes in the channels of torrents, which have detached them from their native beds,

while those of Brasil are found in a kind of pudding-stone, impregnated with Iron Ochre. Be this as it may, the diamonds of South America are of a brownish obscure hue, and are known in commerce by the name of Portuguese diamonds, which title makes them inferior 10 per cent. to those of Visiapour and Golconda.

2. SHEFFIELD. The emigration of the Braganza family, must also considerably promote the interest and prosperity of Sheffield. There are no nations who consume more cutlery than the Spaniards and Portuguese, or who wish to have it in greater perfection.

This love for fine cutlery which they manifest at home, is carried to a passion by them abroad, and few

are seen without knives, or instruments resembling them, and which they use not only at their meals, but for the gratification of sudden resentment, and the commission of private cruelty and crimes. The better order, carry *dirks* highly finished, and on which they set a high value. A dirk of about two guineas value, has been known to sell at St. Salvador for one hundred crowns! but the manufacturers of Sheffield will see the propriety of becoming acquainted with the *form* and *fashion* of the cutlery used in the Brasils, and of confining themselves to the information they receive. Although I am of opinion that Sheffield, as well as Birmingham, might venture to decorate the goods they now prepare for Madeira and the colonies, with the Braganza arms, and other ensigna of veneration and fame.

The *form* of the Portuguese trinkets and instruments are not to be changed, but popular devices may be impressed upon, and prove more likely to advance their sale than their intrinsic worth and former prevalency. I know of no measure more likely to revive the trade of Sheffield than that of attending to the opinion I have ventured to submit to the manufacturers of Birmingham; I mean that of sending an agent to Madeira and the Brasils, with an assortment of sample goods, and with instructions to procure drawings, designs and models, of such goods as suit the taste and character of the inhabitants of the country, and to receive orders for goods corresponding to the samples brought out.

It should also be known, that the samples, in a general way, can-

not be too good or highly finished. There is no greater error than that of thinking that any rubbish of goods suits the South American market. I know from the most ample experience, that the best articles will sell there well, and at the best possible prices.

When a perfectly high finished dirk, gun, sword, or other instrument has been *accidentally* offered for sale either in Portugal or Spanish America, it has been bought by *competition*, and laid up by the proprietor as a curiosity for a cabinet. Nor do I fear asserting that those who send a selection of work to the Brsils, eminently executed, will rapidly increase their fortunes, and rise above those, who, according to custom, send nothing abroad but what merits the indignation of savages and slaves.

3. MANCHESTER. The observations I have made in the two foregoing articles, apply in so many points to Manchester, and all other manufacturing towns, that I shall confine myself here to a few particulars.

The soft goods in demand in the Brasils, and in the island of Madeira, and which this country has for time immemorial sent to Lisbon, from whence it was shipped for America, are

Woollen Cloths,	Stuffs,
Serges,	Bays,
Durays,	Perpetuanas or
Druggels,	Long-ells,
Sagathies,	Hats,
Shalloons,	Stockings, and
Camblets,	Gloves.

Besides which, as will more fully appear hereafter, Holland, Germany, and France, supplied Lisbon with coarse linens and callicoes, fine Hollands, bone lace, fine cotton and linen thread.

Now as those countries can no longer send these articles, it remains for Manchester to furnish the demand of such of them as suit her manufactories, or to establish such manufactories as may supply the promised demand. It may be necessary to remark, that the best goods for the Brazilian market cannot be too fine, and plain, nor can the inferior be too gaudy; Scarlet Borders are much esteemed, as are shawls and handkerchiefs, striped with crimson, blue, or purple. The generality of goods are such as are commonly called West Indian, but a greater proportion of *supe-*

rior goods should be sent to South America, than what are called for in the West Indies. But on these, and other relative heads, the intelligent manufacturers of Manchester are no doubt sufficiently informed.

4. STOCKPORT. In as much as Portugal formerly manufactured hats for the colonies, so must Stockport and other places, pursuing the hat manufactory, receive a considerable accession of strength from the fall of Portugal and the unprecedented *rise of her colonies*. But as the hats worn by the Portuguese and the Brasilians are for the most part of a particular shape or professional form, care must be taken to acquire a knowledge of it, in order that articles may not be exported subject to a return or to a languid sale.

The *clerical hats* alone must now rise to an enormous demand. There are not less than 40,000 churchmen of every description now in Madeira and the Brasils! and these, together with the military, merchants, and tradesmen, &c. &c. will have to apply to us: for it is not to be considered that manufactories to any extent, will ever be established on the western continent. Various circumstances must for ever traverse such undertakings, and cause the ruin of those who attempt to force them into operation and effect.

The material while raw would suffer from fermentation excited by heat, or be consumed by vermin, generated by the same principle. Besides labour is enormously dear, and those perish untimely who

pursue, in any degree, a regular diurnal or unremitting industry.

For, notwithstanding the charms of the climate, there is something in it which consumes the energies, and disposes the mind to a love of supineness and a state of indolence, completely adverse to the pursuits of business, and the activity and zeal required in every branch of fabric and manufacture. Why a climate so interesting produces such effects, and attack the nervous system, I know not, nor is this a place for the discussion, but I know it to be a fact; therefore the manufacturers of this country can never apprehend an American rival, but may pursue their labours, and with renewed sensibility to Providence, for the new commercial theatre now exposed before them in a distant land, and

for the blessings and advantages with which their own is so peculiarly endowed.

5. LEEDS. Although the consumption of *all* kinds of woollen manufactures is very great in South America, still there are always goods of a peculiar nature, and for which there necessarily is a higher demand. 'Tis for the well informed manufacturer to make himself acquainted with the prevailing taste and prejudices of the countries he deals with, and thereby send nothing abroad but what is certain to command a rapid and extensive sale.

Of the woollen articles most in request in the Brasils and Madeira, are fine broad medley cloths, fine

Spanish cloths, and scarlet and black cloths.

As Leeds already excels in the first mentioned article, she will have no difficulty in suiting the market, and in executing orders to any amount. But it remains for her to see the propriety of adopting those branches of manufacture which have been abandoned by Holland, Germany, and France. At the period when the *light and fine* cloths of France and Holland flourished, they were *preferred* in South America to the best of our own, although they did not consume near as much of the raw material; and were, in every other point, productive of less expense.

The fancy cloths of France, in particular, were greatly appreciated;

and the black and scarlet of Holland, sold above those of Britain, at the rate of ten per cent. To this day French or Dutch black cloths are preferred in this country to those of our own. The reason of this partiality is a subject worthy the inquiry of the manufacturers of Leeds, as well as any other problem which may arise out of the other remarks I have made, with a view to promote their advantage. But as long as a sordid system of education is thought, in this country, to be sufficient for merchants and manufacturers, little hopes can be entertained of perfection in science or of inquiry after *general* knowledge in business. And yet the circumstances of the present times, more materially prove than ever the necessity of a general and comprehensive knowledge *of the world* in business, and that it is

the most effectual means both to thrive and shine in life. For the man who sacrifices the idle pursuits of trivial, and, at the same time, expensive pleasures, to the rational and satisfactory desire of that sort of knowledge which may turn to his own and to public account, qualifies himself for the favors which fortune may offer; and which, without such acquisitions, it would be out of his power to embrace or improve.

These observations alone ought to inspire every man with just and generous sentiments respecting the necessity of general knowledge to mercantile views: and if these sentiments were spread among individuals, they must, of course, discover their good effects in their own circles, and in the conduct of the nation at large.

However to the honor of Leeds it is known, that her manufacturers promote a spirit of science, and that they are conscious they cannot fail confirming their prosperity and happiness, by causing knowledge and science to flourish among them without controul.

6. NORTHAMPTON. France and the former Brabant and Flanders, manufactured *bone lace and fine thread* to an enormous amount; and exported, through the channel of Portugal and Spain, a vast proportion of it to Madeira, the Spanish Possessions and the Brasils. The consumption of lace in those countries being permanent and great, no female of any character going unveiled or without a profusion of lace in the composition of her dress.

The bone lace trade being now stagnant and nearly extinct, or, at least, incapable of operation while we block up our enemies in their ports; the manufacturers of British lace at Northampton, and elsewhere, should see the propriety of availing themselves of so favorable an opportunity, and introduce their lace into South America, where, in time, it will, no doubt succeed, and crown with extraordinary success, so judicious an enterprise. To such an extent was this trade carried in the low countries, connected with that of fine thread, that it was calculated to maintain 60,000 families! This fact must be sufficient to recommend the adoption of it on a large scale, by those now engaged in the British fabric of so profitable an article.

7. NOTTINGHAM. France for the most part, through the channels before indicated, furnished South America with silk stockings to a very great amount. Denied, by the superiority of our means, from pursuing this, or any other branch of her foreign commerce, the manufacturers of Nottingham should benefit by the hands of her rival being bound up, and supply those countries with goods from whence they derived so much gain.

The quality of the stockings in demand in Madeira and the Brasils, is to be superior to that of those sent to the West India Isles. The silk, in particular, must be of the very best; and the cotton and thread made of materials of the best property.

The distinction in goods for the Brasils and the West Indies, does not rise out of any distinction of climate, but out of that of wealth. The Brasilians being for the most part, not only wealthy, but rich ; and consequently able to indulge themselves in luxuries which people of other countries have no pretensions to afford. It is to be understood, notwithstanding, that inferior goods are also in demand ; and silk much to the advantage of the manufacturer.

8. COVENTRY. There is no town in the British empire so likely to benefit by the existing state of things, as that of Coventry, which *exclusively in England* manufacture an article of the greatest consumption in the Brasils ; and the fabric of which is now suspended in those

countries from whence the Brasils were supplied.

To conceive the consumption of silk, it is necessary to know that the Portuguese and Spanish ladies despise any other garb; and that custom, taste and prejudice combine to make silk the only apparel in which it is fit to appear abroad. It even enters into the dress of the statesmen, lawyers and priests, who, like the luxurious Romans, after the effeminate reign of Elagabalus, consider it a common article of dress.

It is also highly necessary for the manufacturers of Coventry to inquire what kind of silk is most esteemed in South America. Black is the predominant colour; and, as the Portuguese distinguish silk *by its lightness*, it becomes necessary to make it

fine. The organzine silk of Piedmont was in former demand, two threads of which were equal in fineness, that is, in smoothness, thickness and length, for the thread of the first twist; and for the second a single thread was all that was required.

There may be some difficulty in procuring the raw material, and still there is little doubt, that if the manufacturers extend their views, and see the importance of the trade to Brasil and Madeira, they can be supplied from Sicily, Greece and India, and be enabled to carry on a trade, which, in a few years, will make their city vie with some of the most flourishing in the British empire.

9. GLOCESTER. The profits of the pin trade, which lately existed between Portugal and the Brasils, may now be assumed by the city of Gloucester. Nor is it a trade to be neglected, when it is asserted, that it was productive to the manufacturers of Lisbon of a revenue of considerable magnitude and amount: but a people so intelligent and industrious as those of Gloucester have no occasion to be spurred on to the prosecution of laudable designs; they, no doubt, will see the favorableness of the present moment, and act in such a manner as will be attended with honor and advantageous consequence to themselves.

10. DURSLEY, 11. WOOTON, 12. STROUD, 13. PAINSWICK, &c. The manufacture of woollen cloths, which

constitute the principal staple commodity of this kingdom, is carried to such perfection in these towns, and by gentlemen of much enterprize and information, that it is almost superfluous to submit any remarks to their attention.

It may be salutary, notwithstanding, to observe, that, as there are no cloths in more request in South America, than Spanish, scarlet and black, it becomes of consequence to multiply the manufacture of such colours, and the demand for them must, in a short time, be considerably great.

It is not a little singular that the foreign markets prefer the scarlet and black of Holland and France, as before remarked, to those of England.

—The French and Dutch manufacturers are also chemists. May not their superior excellence proceed from their chemical studies, which teach them the composition of colours possessing various powers; the use of vegetable acids, &c. If it be true that their superiority proceed from a knowledge of chemistry, why should not British manufacturers apply to the same source, and imitate, even their enemies, in pursuits which confer excellence and wealth. For imitation, which is natural to man as an individual, when properly exerted, is the origin of perfection in science and national arts. But as the cloths of France and Holland are excluded from the Brasils, those of the towns I have named, cannot fail but succeed, and raise their inhabitants into that rank and opulence, which their

industry and character entitle them to deserve.

I have now to return to remarks of a more general kind.

Besides every description of manufactured goods, Great Britain will have to furnish Madeira and the Brasils with pepper, lead, block-tin, and other articles ; copper and brass, and wrought and unwrought pewter, &c. together with saddlery, boots, shoes, &c. &c. For the returns to be made for which and for every other information respecting the Brasils and Madeira, either of a general or local nature, see the second part of this performance.

Such are, both in a wide and partial view, the grand effects to be ex-

pected from a South American commerce. Were I to follow up the subject more minutely, I could readily discover other important results, and enumerate various advantages which must inevitably flow into Great Britain from an intercourse with South America ; but I certainly have said sufficient to satisfy the reasonable part of the community, and I hold the rest of mankind not worth convincing.

It will be urged against the prospects I hold out, that the emigration to the Brasils, by no means increases the demand for our manufactures, and that we have lost the consumption of Portugal without adding to that of her colonies.

This will be urged without weight. Have not the manufactories of Por-

tugal, such as they were, and which supplied the Brasils with a variety of goods, suddenly disappeared, and left their labour and profits to us?

Has not the Court emigrated with 50,000 followers, and is it not more than apparent, that an empire will rise out of the South-West, of which, in comparison, the ancient Portugal, will appear but as an obscure and contemptible spot on the earth? And is not the road now opened for liberating the Spanish colonies from the galling monopoly of the mother country, and for forming a most profitable inlet for our political speculations and commercial views?

There *are*, however, in this, as in every nation, those whom nothing can satisfy or convince. For all the light in nature, it seems, can make no

impression on a disordered eye : fire may consume a member struck with the palsy, but cannot heat it into sensation, and demonstration may shine on the understanding, but it must remain in darkness, till pride, obstinacy, or ignorance be removed. Time alone has a true dominion over conviction — leaving therefore the justness of my opinions to that true criterion, I proceed to the second, or geographical part, of this production ; a part which may be relied on for its accuracy, as it is the fruit of personal research, corrected and improved by the best authorities.

THE
BRASILS,

&c.

THIS large tract of land was first discovered by *Alvares Cabral*, a Portuguese, An. 1501, who took possession of it in the name of the king his master, and called it the province of the *Holy Cross*, as it was on that festival that he landed upon it. Since that period, the French made several settlements in different parts of the country, but were as often driven back; the

Dutch followed their example, but being at war with England, and not able to support themselves in their new possessions, they were obliged to abandon them to the Portuguese, who have kept possession of them ever since, and given them the name of Brasil, on what account is not easy to guess, unless it be from the wood of that name which is brought from thence, and which has given its name *to*, and not received it from, the country, as some have imagined. One convincing proof of which is, that the wood *Almugin*, mentioned in Scripture, is that which we call the Brasil wood.

This tract is the only country the Portuguese hold in America; and on which they have only extended themselves along the coasts, whilst the interior is, for the most part, in-

habited by the ancient natives, a rude and uncultivated people. It is styled a principality, because it gives its title to the presumptive heir of Portugal, who is by birth styled Prince of Brasil; but there is no doubt but that in a short time it will be ranked among empires, and become one of the greatest on the earth.

Boundaries and Extent.

The Brasils are bound on the east by the *Atlantic Ocean*: on the west by the land of the *Amazons*: on the north by *Terra Firma*, and some part of the same ocean; and on the south by *Paraguay*, and another part of the ocean. It extends itself chiefly from north to south, except at the two extreme ends, where the

coast winds towards the west; so that its utmost stretch, which is from Cape Aguará, which lies 30 minutes south of the equinoctial line, in west longitude $51^{\circ}. 40^m$, to that of St. Vincent, about 30 minutes south of the tropic of Capricorn, and in longitude $45^{\circ}. 10^m$. west, is full 23 degrees and a half, or 470 leagues, being 1410 miles.

I have, however, to observe, that some geographers give it a larger range southward, even as far as the 25th degree, so that according to that dimension, and the windings of the coast, its length may be reckoned to extend above 2000 miles. As for its breadth from east to west, if we take it from Cape Saint Augustin, which is the farthest eastward, under the 35th degree of west longitude to

the 51st, where its western boundary is commonly fixed, it may be computed somewhat above 300 leagues or 900 miles.

The coasts begin at the mouth of the great river of the Amazons, whence they run almost eastward as far as *Cape St. Roque*, that is from 35°. 40^m. to 49 degrees of longitude, or about 450 leagues, from which they take a winding southward, quite to the Spanish province of *Guayora*, from which it is parted by the river *Capibori*, two or three leagues from the town of St. Vincent. So that almost the entire country lies under the torrid zone, there being but very few places in it that reach beyond the southern tropic above mentioned.

The Portuguese may, notwithstanding, pretend to a much larger

extent of country. By original discovery they may claim to the *Rio de la Plata* on the south, and to the mountains of *Peru* westward. The Spaniards dispute these pretensions, and affirm that one of their countrymen, named *Vincent Yanes Pinzon*, and after him *Diego de Lopez*, both in the service of the Spanish crown, did first discover the country, Anno 1500, i. e. one year before the Portuguese.

I shall not stop to adjust this dispute; I shall only observe with respect to the *Brasils*, that it is almost universally agreed, that *Peter Alvarez Cabro*, or *Cabral*, was the first discoverer of it; being at the head of thirteen sail of ships, bound for the *East Indies*, but cast upon a then unknown coast, in south lati-

tude 10. where he saw some tawny people with lank hair, and flat faces, who betook to their heels upon the first sight of the Europeans; and, being spoken to at a distance in several languages, appeared to understand none of them. From thence this adventurer sailed southward to another port, which he called *Porto Securo*, from the safe anchorage he found there, and caused an altar to be reared, and mass to be said on the shore, and a sermon preached in the presence of many nations, who seemed very attentive to all that was done; and this happening on the festival of the Holy Cross, he caused a large one to be erected on a high tree. Presently after which, he dispatched one of his ships to acquaint his court with this discovery.

Before he pursued his voyage, he left some of his men on shore to learn the language, and to inform themselves concerning the nature, produce, &c. of the country; who reported it to be a most fertile one, producing great variety of fruits, sugar, &c. and rich enough to be made to bear every thing that is needful or convenient for life. And experience has since proved, that it is excellently well qualified for producing all things that are generally found to grow in the *West Indies*, about the same climate.

Gold and Diamonds.

The gold and diamond mines though of great extent, are but a recent discovery; they were first opened in 1681, and have since yield-

ed about five millions sterling annually, of which sum a fifth belongs to the crown. So plentiful are diamonds in this country, that the Court of Portugal found it necessary to restrain their importation, to prevent too great a diminution of their value. They are neither so hard nor so clear as those of the East Indies.

The Brazilian diamonds are sold ten per cent. cheaper than the Oriental ones, supposing the weight equal. The largest diamond in the world was sent from Brazil to the king of Portugal; it weighs one thousand six hundred and eighty carats, or twelve ays and a half, and has been valued at £56,787,500.

Some skilful lapidaries, however, are of opinion, that this supposed

diamond is only a topaz, in which case a very great abatement must be made in its value.

Revenue.

The crown revenue arising from the Brasils amounts to five millions sterling in gold, besides the duties and customs on the merchandise, which was imported from that quarter. This indeed is more than a fifth of the precious metal produced by the mines; but, every other consequent advantage considered, it probably does not much exceed the tenth.

The extraction of the gold is neither very laborious nor dangerous in Brasil. It is sometimes on the surface of the soil, and this is the purest kind; and at other times it is

necessary to dig for it eighteen or twenty feet, but seldom lower.

It is found in larger pieces upon the mountains and barren rocks than the valleys, or on the borders of the river. Every man who discovers a mine, must give notice of it to the government. If the vein be thought of little consequence, it is given up to the individuals ; if it be a rich vein, the government reserves a portion of it to themselves ; another share is given to the commandant, a third to the intendant, and two shares are secured to the discoverer. The miners are compelled to deliver to the king of Portugal a fifth part of all the gold which is extracted.

Trade.

The trade of Brasil is very great, and increases every year. The Por

tuguese have opportunities of supplying themselves with slaves for their several works at a much cheaper rate than any other European power that has settlements in America, they being the only European nation that has established colonies in Africa, from whence they import as many as 40,000 negroes annually!

The excessive confluence of people to the Brasils, as well from other countries as from Portugal, not only enlarges the imports of gold, diamonds, sugar, tobacco, hides, drugs, medicines, and cotton; but, what is of infinitely more importance to Europe in general, the exportation of the manufactures of this hemisphere, of which the principal are the following: Great Britain sends woollen manufactures, such as fine broad medley cloth, fine Spanish cloths,

scarlet and black cloth, serges, du-roys, druggets, sagathies, shalloons, camblets, and Norwich stuffs; black Colchester bays, says, and perpetuanas, called long ells; hats, stockings, and gloves.

Holland, Germany, and France, chiefly exported fine Hollands, bone lace, and fine thread; silk manufactures, pepper, lead, block tin, and other articles, *were* also sent from different countries.

Besides the particulars already specified, England likewise traded with Portugal, for the use of the Brasis, in copper and brass, wrought and unwrought pewter, and all kinds of hardware; all which articles so enlarged the Portuguese trade before the emigration of the Braganza family, that, instead of twelve ships

usually employed in the Brasil commerce, there were latterly never fewer than one hundred sail of large vessels constantly going and returning to those colonies. To all this may be added, that Brasil receives from Madeira a great quantity of wine, vinegar, and brandy; and, from the Azores, liquors to the amount of 25,000*l.* per annum.

Indeed, the commerce of Brasil alone was sufficient to raise Portugal to a considerable height of naval power, as it maintained a constant nursery of seamen.

The fleet used to sail in the following order, and at the following stated periods: that to *Rio de Janeiro* set sail in January; the fleet to *Bahia*, or the bay of *All Saints*, in February;

and the third fleet, to *Fernambucca*, in the month of March.

Productions, &c.

Tobacco grows in great plenty in several parts of the country, and is inferior to none for taste and flavour, especially if kept till it is old; for when too new it is strong and intoxicating: and this is perhaps the reason why the commerce of it is here so inconsiderable, except in snuff, to what it is in other parts of America. Other commodities of the country are ambergrease, in small quantity, rosin, train oil, ginger, indigo, and especially the most valuable balsam, called capayva, besides vast quantities of Brazil wood, which is so much used in dying. There are besides, India corn, sugar canes, and ipicacuanha; yellow fustic, and beautiful

speckled wood, which is made use of in cabinet work. There are five sorts of palm trees, some curious ebony, and a great variety of cotton trees.

Animals.

The country abounds in horned cattle, which are hunted for their hides only, 20,000 have been sent annually to Europe. There is also plenty of deer, hares, and other game. Amongst the wild beasts are tygers, porcupines, janouveras, monkies, sloths, and the topiraffore, a creature between a bull and an ass, but without horns, and entirely harmless, whose flesh is very good, and has the flavour of beef. There is an almost numberless variety of fowl, both wild and tame, but of which, as well as of beasts and reptiles, I shall speak hereafter.

Climate.

The climate has been described by two eminent naturalists to be temperate and mild, when compared with that of Africa. And although it is a very hot climate lying between the line and the tropic, yet is its excessive heat greatly allayed by the east winds from the ocean ; which being neither interrupted by islands nor mountains, blow so full and pleasant upon it, that it is as altogether healthy and delightful, and free from those distempers which commonly rage in countries of the same latitude, as in Guinea, Angola, &c. where those refreshing sea breezes have not the same free passage. The plague is a thing unknown in Brasil, though the inhabitants are not free from some putrid fevers, occasioned by the heat and moisture of the air, as well as by the excessive use of fusil.

Natives.

The natives are divided into several nations, some of which have each a separate language, and others use several dialects of the same tongue. The principal of them are the *Tupinambos*, *Tobajaras*, *Petiguaras*, *Tapuyas*, or *Tapoyas*. The latter of which are again subdivided into variety of tribes or petty nations, differing in their language, customs, &c. from all the rest; and the last of them, which inhabit the inland country on the west, are the tallest as well as the rudest and most barbarous of all. They are in general of a middle stature, black eyed, wide mouthed, with black curled hair, and flat noses, made so by art when young. They are not naturally black, but are commonly made so by the heat of the sun: to avoid this appearance they commonly paint themselves.

The women are much of the same size as the men, strait and well limbed, and not ill featured. Those of the inland go mostly stark naked, having but a few leaves tied round their middle. But those who live near the sea coast, and converse with the *Europeans*, affect to go dressed like them.

The obsequious wife of a native commonly accompanies her husband every where, even to the wars, and serves him in the quality of a beast of burden; being loaded with a basket at her back, in which is deposited *all* their household utensils, which consists in a few dishes and cups made of the rind of calabasses, a kind of pompions; a hammock made of cotton, like net work, which they fasten to two sticks, made fast in the ground, and this they use for beds; but when

they travel they tie them to trees. They are called by the natives *hamack*; from which both the name and invention have been adopted by us.

Besides this household stuff, the wife carries perhaps a child tied to her back with a piece of calico, and another by her side; with which she commonly has a parrot or monkey in her hand, and leads a dog by a string in the other; while the lordly lubber, her husband, stalks majestically before her with his pipe or segars in his mouth, and his arms in his hands, which commonly are bows and arrows, darts and wooden clubs.

Those who inhabit the inland are such barbarians, that they scarcely seem to have any thing of religion, and yet they have a kind of priests

or rather conjurors among them, who pretend to foretell future events, and to play many other surprising tricks.

To these priests the people not only apply to consult them about a war, journey, &c. but likewise to bewitch their enemies, or those against whom they have taken some grudge, or to *unbewitch* such as have been *bewitched* by them.

The priests are likewise hired to appease the souls that are condemned to wander about in discontent; which they pretend to do by various sorts of sacrifices.

However the generality of the people have some notion of the Supreme Being; but their idea of, and the worship they pay to him, is

wild and strange, some thinking thunder to be the Deity, others the Great Bear, or some other constellation.

The Brazilian kings are commonly known by their shaven crowns and the length of their nails or claws.

Polygamy is allowed of, yet adultery is punished with death.

They have been reproached for eating their conquered enemies. It is however understood that they eat them more out of a spirit of revenge than from any love of human flesh.

Some of these poor nations were very much civilized by the Dutch formerly, and were made very serviceable to them, though they always continued subject to their own princes.

But when the Portuguese recovered the country from the Dutch, they made some evil impressions on the natives, which cast them back into their savage state, and in which they remain nearly to this period.

Beasts, Reptiles, &c.

As this country lies under the 1, 2, 3, and 4 climates, and consequently is very hot; so it breeds a great number of obnoxious and poisonous creatures, besides a great variety of wild, and other animals. Those of the former kind, most peculiar to it, are,

1. The *Indian Salamander*, called by the natives *Jakkoo*, which is a kind of long four-legged insect, of so venomous a nature, that the very sting of it is mortal, unless either

burned with a red-hot iron, or immediately cut off.

2. *Ibibaboka*, another venomous creature of the serpentine kind; some of which are between thrée and four yards long, and of a considerable bigness; its colours are various, as black, white, red, green, &c. and its bite mortal, but works slowest of any.

3. The *Brivivinga*, or rattle-snake, the bite of which is not less mortal than the two former, and in some instances more quick and dreadful, unless speedily cauterized, or cut off; without which precaution the person's body swells, and in twenty-four hours perishes in a most shocking condition. And it is justly looked upon as a remarkable instance of the Divine Providence, that this obnoxious creature gives such timely warn-

ing by the noise it makes with its rattle.

4. The *Boyguacu*, of a monstrous bigness, being half a yard in circumference, and about six or seven yards in length.

5. Liboa, or Roebuck Serpent, so called from its enormous size, being about as large as a big barrel, and between twenty and thirty feet in length, and sometimes beyond; so that it is able to swallow up a Roebuck whole, and with its horns.

The country breeds likewise a great variety of other serpents and venomous creatures, such as are common in all hot climes, as scorpions and lizards; and pissmires are in such *prodigious* quantities, and so large and destructive, that the

Portuguese style them “ the Kings of Brasil,” because they devour all that comes in their way.

There are several other kinds of reptiles and insects, too numerous to dwell upon.

Among beasts of a wild nature, the tigers are in great numbers, though they are nothing so fierce and ravenous as those of Africa and India. The *Ant-Bear*, so called on account of its destroying that insect wherever it meets with them. The *Shelled Hedge-Hogs*, called by the natives *Tatu*, and by the Spaniards *Armadille*, because its whole body is covered with a kind of strong armour, under which it can draw its head, feet and tail, and turn itself round like a bull, which posture is its chief defence, either

when it goes to sleep, or is attacked by any voracious creature, with which it is not able to contend.

The *Quaridu* or *Porcupine*, which is as big as a middling hog, but without bristles or hair, but armed with strong quills, which it can dart with great force whenever it is attacked or vexed by man or beast.

The *Januvera* is a slim, well shaped beast of prey, not unlike a greyhound; but *so fierce* and voracious, that it destroys all it meets with.

Monkeys are in great abundance and variety; but one sort in particular, called the King's Monkey, is to be remarked; it is the biggest of the whole species, and is remarkable for having a thin, hollow

throttle bone, near the upper end of the larinx, by which it makes a very loud and uncommon noise. The monkies of the common yellow kind are observed to have a very contrary smell from what they have in any other country: they smell very sweet, and not unlike common musk.

But the most remarkable of the four-footed creatures, is that which the natives call *Ayi* or *Hajai*, from the noise it makes with its throat.

The Tapirassou is a creature between a bull and an ass, but without horns; has long hanging ears, and a short tail: its teeth are very sharp; yet the beast is harmless, and flies at the sight of man. It is principally hunted for its skin, which, when dried in the sun, grows so

tough and hard, that the shields they make of it, are proof against the missile weapons. The flesh is good, and tastes like beef.

There are great plenty of deer and other game; and a variety of other wild and tame creatures.

Birds.

There is no less plenty and variety of birds; some remarkable for their beauty, others for their exquisite taste, &c. Of the first sort is the Humming Bird, or *Sun-beam*; the feathers are so beautiful, that the Indians make use of them to give lustre to their pictures.

2. Anhimma or Unicorn-bird, because it has a horn two or three inches long growing out of its

forehead, but brittle and blunt, and of no defence to the creature.

3. The *Toukan*, of the bigness of a pigeon, of a perfect jet black, except under the breast and belly, which are of a fine yellow, with a small circle of red about the neck. The natives adorn themselves with its feathers, on their festivals and dancing parties; but what is most extraordinary in this bird is, that its bill is bigger than its body; the bill is yellow without and red within, and is about a span long.

4. The *Cocsi* is in shape much like a Stork, and has a curious variety of colours on his head, wings, and the rest of its body.

5. The *Guara* or Sea *Curlue*, is remarkable for changing its colour,

being, at first black, then ash colour, next white, afterwards scarlet, and last of all crimson; which last grows richer and deeper the longer the bird lives.

Parrots, Parroquets, Cacatoos, Mocaos, and a variety of others of the same species, abound as common as Pigeons in other countries; and some of them most beautifully feathered and coloured; but are in too great plenty to be esteemed by the natives,

Birds of the eatable kind, are the Turkey Cocks, which are very large and delicious, as well as other kind of poultry, particularly a white sort of hens, whose feathers the natives dye of a fine green, to mix with those of other birds, to be worn about the head and middle.

There are also Ducks, and numerous Water Fowl; but the sluggishness of their gait, make the Indians refuse to eat them, from fear of being *infected* with it.

There are Bats of a prodigious size, and so bold and dangerous, that they will go into houses in the night, and if they find any persons asleep and uncovered, they will fasten on them, and suck their blood.

Fish.

The Sea Coast, vast Lakes and Rivers, yield such plenty and variety of fish, that the bare naming them would be irksome.

One of the most common sort is the *Barbel*, which are killed with

a lance, as they go commonly in large shoals; and of dry fish, the natives make one of their sorts of bread, which is short and well flavoured.

Eels are large, and in great plenty; and a sort of them, which have two horns on their forehead, are thick in the middle, but small at the end, and the tail is esteemed poisonous.

The most remarkable fish taken on the coasts, is the Globe Fish, which is so beset all round with sharp spikes, that it bids defiance to all fish of prey, and has a surprising facility of moving itself forward on the surface of the water, by the contraction and motion of those spikes, which is all the means that it has to swim with. I could name

a much greater variety of this kind, some sharp like stars, others in other singular forms; but as all that have any thing remarkable in them are commonly to be seen among the collections of the curious, I shall expatiate no further about them, as it would swell this production beyond my intention.

Woods, Plants, &c.

To give a detail of all the different woods, plants, roots, &c. which this vast country affords, were also too tedious a task, and fitter for a Natural History than for a Work like this. The chief of the former, is the Bragil or Red-Wood, which grows in the greatest plenty: *this tree* for largeness and foliage, is not unlike our oaks, and is very hard to fell and split; but that work

is left to the negro-slaves, who are likewise forced to bring it upon their shoulders to the sea-side, for want of other carriage.

There are five different kinds of Palm-trees, and some fine woods of Ebony; the latter of which being hard and tough, the natives make their pikes, darts, and arrows of them.

The *Copace* is a large tree, like our Walnut, without fruit, but distils the most excellent balsam.

The *Aouai* is a tree of the most disagreeable smell, and whether growing, cut, sawn, or burnt, casts a most intolerable stench: in recompense of which, there are some of other kinds of wood, of most exquisite fragrance, particularly one,

whose odour vastly exceeds that of our best roses; there are others that yield the most excellent fruits, too numerous to mention; and the Portuguese have transplanted thither plenty of citron and orange trees, which thrive to great perfection.

The Cotton trees grow in great number, and are of great use.

The *Mastick*, for which the Isle of *Scio* is so famed, likewise is to be found, and not inferior to that of *Scio* in goodness: and, to conclude this article, the clime is so mild, that trees and plants every where enjoy a perpetual verdure; and even in the most cold and southern parts, as in Cabo-frio or Cold-Cape, neither the frequent rains, cold and blustering winds, nor even snows, can at

any time strip them of that delightful dress.

Roots.

There are two roots on which the natives mostly feed, viz. *Aipi* and *Manioe*: the women pluck them up about four months after they are sown, and dry them by the fire and scrape them with sharp stones; and these being boiled in milk or water, make a kind of pap, one sort being boiled to a degree of consistence, is kept for future, and the softer for present use, and both have a taste not unlike that of chesnuts.

The *Aipi* may also be eat raw, and when pressed, yields a pleasant juice for drink; or being *inspissated* by the heat of the sun, is kept

either to be boiled and eaten, or to be dissolved and drank: but the *Manioe* must be scraped small, and baked or boiled, or else it is very unwholesome.

The drink that is made of these roots and that of the *maize*, is commonly prepared by the women.

Physical Plants.

Other plants, both for eating and physic, I forbear to speak of, they being still in greater number; and it is by the help of the latter, that the inhabitants keep themselves so healthy and strong, that they frequently live to one hundred, or even one hundred and twenty years, without any considerable disorders; there being scarce any lame, maimed,

paralytic, blind, crooked, or deformed, among them.

The most dangerous disease the natives are subject to, is what they call piams, and is a kind of venereal, which yet they easily cure themselves of, by an excellent bark, which grows in great plenty, and is known by the name of *hyourrake*. It is about an inch or more in thickness, and whilst green, is of a pleasant taste, very cooling, and an effectual remedy against all venereal disorders.

The fact is, that the Brasilians, besides a wholesome climate, diet, and soil, and their great variety of medicinal plants, are blessed with a perfect freedom from care. They have neither ambition or covetousness, nor any of those carking

solicitudes, which sour the lives, and undermine the constitution of the people of Europe, and which commonly drive them to remedies worse than the original disease.

Rivers, Bays, &c.

Brasil has a great many rivers, and some of them of very extraordinary magnitude, particularly that of the Amazons.

The next river of note, is that of *Paranayba*, which springs from a ridge of mountains, about the middle of the country, and taking its course northwards, runs into that of the Amazons, into which it falls near the mouth of it, receives about thirty other rivers, some of them very large: so that it

is esteemed one of the most considerable waters in Brasil, and gives names to the nations that live on each side of it, during a course of about 10 degrees or 600 miles, exclusive of its windings, that is, from the 13th to the 3d degree of south latitude. The natives on its banks are in amity with the Portuguese, and trade with them by means of that river.

There are several other rivers, though less considerable, that discharge themselves into the same gulph, particularly the *Para*, the *Pucakas*, and *Tocantino*. Farther eastward are those of *Maracu*, *Topocoru*, *Mony*, and some smaller ones, all which unite their streams in the Bay of *Cuma*, where they form the island called *Santa Lodo-vigo de Maragnan*. All these, and

a good number of others, still farther east, have their course northward, and fall into the Atlantic Ocean.

On the eastern coast are likewise a considerable number of rivers, the most conspicuous of which, is that of St. Francis, whose course is mostly eastward, from 46 to 35 degrees of east longitude. This river about half-away between its fountain and mouth, buries itself several leagues under ground; and after its emerging, forms some considerable islands, and divides the Captainrick of *Fernambuco* from that of *Sergipe*, after which it falls into the Atlantic.

Rio Real, or the Royal River, runs almost parallel with that of St. Francis; and divides the Cap-

tainrick of *Seregipe* from that of *Todos los Santos*, and falls into the same ocean, about forty-one leagues north of the bay of that name.

Rio Doci, or *Rio de los Magos*, in its course from east to west, receives several other rivers, divides the Captainrick of *Porto Seguro* from that of *Santo Spirito*. The last I shall mention is, the famous one styled *Rio de Janiero*, which has its course from north to south, and gives its name to the Captainrick so called, and falls into the ocean a little to the west of *Cabo Frio*.

The entrance into it is guarded on the east side by the fort of *Santa Cruz*, and by that of *San Juan* on the west, and a little higher north-

ward by that of *San Jago*, and the city of St. Sebastian, the capital of the Captainrick.

I refer the rivers of less note to the maps, and shall now take a view of the several Captainricks or Governments into which the principality of Brasil is commonly divided.

Division of the Country.

The Portuguese style them *Capitanias*; and reckon fourteen of them in it, beginning from the west corner, where the river of the Amazons discharges itself, and running along eastward, thence southward, and then west, according to the course of the coast, along which they are situate.

The Captainricks are

- | | |
|------------------|---------------------|
| 1. Para, | 8. Seregipe, |
| 2. Maragnano, | 9. Bahia de Todos |
| 3. Siara, | los Santos, |
| 4. Rio Grande, | 10. Rio dos Ilhers, |
| 5. Parahiba, | 11. Porto Segurs, |
| 6. Itamarica al. | 12. Espirito Santo, |
| Tamarac, | 13. Rio Janiero, |
| 7. Fernambuco | 14. De San Vin- |
| al. Pernambue, | cente. |

Of these fourteen Captainricks, eight belong properly and solely to the crown, which colonizes and maintains them, and has the whole revenue of them: the other six belong to the Portuguese noblemen, who have formerly obtained grants of them from the crown, and have peopled and fortified them at their own cost.

These last receive their governors from their respective lords, who are, however, obliged to acknowledge the sovereignty of the viceroy of the country; and each of them have likewise their inferior governments, like those that belong to the king.

Some add a fifteenth Captainrick, which they call *Del Rey*, or of the king, which is placed between that of *St. Vincente* and the province of *Paraguay*.

On the coast are three small islands, to which governors are appointed. Ships touch at them for provisions on their voyage to the South Seas: they are called

1. *Fernando*,
2. *St. Barbaro*, and
3. *St. Catherine's*.

At which latter island, all ships *now* bound for the Brasils are to repair for instructions and permission to proceed.

The principal harbours are,

1. *Parambuco*,
2. All Saints,
3. Rio de Janiero,
4. The port of St. Vincente,
5. The harbour of Gabriel, and the port of Saint Salvador.

Saint Salvador is the capital of Brasil. This city has a noble, spacious and commodious harbour, and is built on a high and steep rock; having the sea on one side, and the lake forming a crescent on the other. The situation makes it in a manner impregnable by nature, and the Portuguese have besides added very strong fortifications.

I now proceed with a correct sketch of each Captainrick, and begin with that of

Para.

This government is bounded on the west by a capacious bay, which the Atlantic forms at the mouth of the river *Amazons*: on the east by *Maranhao*, from which it is divided by the river *Maracu*; on the south by the nations of the *Pacaxas* and *Paranaybos*; and on the north by the ocean. Its extent southward is not fixed.

It takes its name from the river *Para*, which falls into the gulph above mentioned, and has a fortress of the same name, situate on the mouth of it, near that of the *Amazons*. It is seated on a high rock,

and is of a square form, commanding all the territory beneath.

The place is inhabited by about 500 Portuguese, whose chief business is the cultivating of tobacco, sugar, and gathering cotton, which last article grows wild and without any cultivation.

2. *Captainrick of Maranhao.*

Is so called from an island of its name, and is contiguous to Para; and has *Scara* on the east; the ocean on the north; and the *Tapuyos* on the south.

The island of *Maranhao*, which gives name to the Captainrick, is situated at the confluence of the three rivers, *Maracu*, *Topocoru*, and *Mercy*, on the north side of the province of its name, and is of an oblong figure,

about forty-five leagues in compass, very fertile, and well inhabited. The French, who seized on it in 1612, built a town on it called *St. Louis de Maragran*.

The town is small but well built, and has a float-castle built on a rock towards the sea, which commands a good convenient harbour. It is a bishop's see, and suffragan to the archbishopric of *St. Salvador de la Baya*.

The island is very difficult of access, by reason of the current of the three rapid rivers which form it; and the mariners are obliged to wait for favorable winds and seasons before they can attempt to reach it. Besides the town aforesaid, there are two others lies considerable, viz. *St. Andero* on the most northern, and *San Jago* on the southern point.

The island is neither plain nor very mountainous, but is pleasantly diversified with hill and dale, watered with small springs and rivers ; it is but two degrees south from the equinoxes, so that the days and nights, seasons, &c. are almost the same all the year round.

The air is serene, seldom troubled with storms, or with either excessive drought or wet, except in the time of the great rains, which last from February to June.

The land is rich and fertile, and produces every thing in perfection, with but little labour or care.

3. *Captainrick of Siera.*

So called from a river of that name, which rises far up in the

Continent, and discharges itself into the ocean about seven or eight leagues to the north of the bay of *Mangorypa*, under the third degree 40". of south latitude; it lies between *Maranhao*, and *Rio Grande*.

Small vessels arrive every year in those waters, and traffic with the natives for sugar-canes, crystal, pearls, cotton, salt, and other commodities, &c. which are the product of the country.

This Captainrick is not very considerable; it is maintained by two fortresses; one on the north, near the little city of *Siera*: the other called Fort St. Luke, is situated on the coast, on the mouth of another small river between *Rio Buraanduba* and *Porto das Oncas*.

4. *Captainrick of Rio Grande.*

It lies on the east of Siera, and winds itself from east to south, being bound on that side by that of Parayba, from which it is divided by the river of that name.

The province is named from the river *Rio Grande*, which runs through it, and discharges itself into the ocean between Cape *Punta Negra*, and the fortress of Tres Reys or Three Kings, which is about five leagues north from the mouth of it.

The government is divided into four parts, from so many rivers that run through them, viz. *Gunhao*, *Gayana*, *Mumphobu*, and *Polingi*. It is but poorly peopled either by

the Portuguese or natives. Those few keep some sugar-mills at work, and tend their farms and plantations, on which they breed some sheep.

The entrance of *Rio Grande* is very difficult and dangerous, though wide and deep enough further in for ships of any burden. The other four rivers have nothing remarkable, except that the *Gunaho* is only navigable by barges and yachts.

The territory produces plenty of fish and wild fowl; the former most delicate and in prodigious quantity, especially about the lake called *Goraires*.

The country produces likewise abundance of the root mandick, of which the natives make their meal

for bread, pap, &c. as before related.

The fort of *Tres Reys* stands under latitude $5^{\circ} 32^m$. and west longitude $35^{\circ} 50^m$.

5. *Captainrick of Parayba.*

Also called from the river of its name, lies between that of *Rio Grande* on the north; and that of *Tamarac* on the south, having the ocean on the east, and the *Figuares* on the west. Its extent from north to south is about thirty-five leagues; as to its depth into the inland I cannot be accurate.

It is watered by two considerable rivers, viz. the *Parayba*, and another, which is remarkable for being

larger towards its source than at the mouth ; between those two rivers lies the bay called *Ponto de Lucena*, between which and *Calo Lado* is a bay which affords a safe station to the largest ships.

The Portuguese have built a city in this province, together with several towns and villages. They have considerable plantations of sugar-canes, and many sugar-mills are established on the rivers I have named.

The whole territory is fertile, not only in the commodity of sugar, but likewise abounds with the Brasil wood, cattle, hides, tobacco, &c.

The city of *Parayba* is situated at the mouth of the river of that

name, and on the South bank of it about three leagues from the main ocean.

The river is navigable up to the city, and a ship may carry without any danger, 6 or 700 barrels of sugar.

The town was formerly open, but is now surrounded with ramparts. It has many well built houses, with marble pillars, particularly warehouses and magazines belonging to the merchants, and all other houses are erected with solid stone. The courts of judicature are held in the city, which causes it to flourish, and to be at once the resort of business and fashion.

The country along the river is low, plain, and rich; but at some

distance from it, it begins to raise itself gradually into fertile hills and dales, which yield a delightful verdure and product: however the flat country being much the richer, is divided into various cantons, under their several names, all which being fertilized by the overflowing of the river, produce plenty of barley, sugar, Indian wheat, potatoes, ananas, cocoa nuts, melons, citrons, oranges, bananas, pakanas, and other necessities of life.

The hills are no less fertile in good pasture, and the cattle that feed upon them are in great number; in so much that their very hides amount to a considerable income.

The city of Parayba stands in South latitude $6^{\circ}. 58^m$, and West longitude $35^{\circ}. 18^m$.

6. *Captainrick of Itamarica.*

Is named from an island lying on its coast near the mouth of the river of its name, which makes the chiefest part of its district, though its territory extends into the inland between thirty and forty leagues, being bounded by *Parayba* on the North; by *Pernambuco* on the South; by the ocean on the East, and by the nation of Tapuyas on the West. It is esteemed the most *ancient* Captainrick in the country, but is eclipsed by those of *Parayba* and *Pernambuco*.

The island of *Itamarica* is parted from the Continent by a very narrow channel, into which the river of its name discharges itself, and lies under the 7th degree 54^m South latitude, and 35° 5^m of West longitude. It is fertile and pleasant, produces plenty of Brasil wood, cotton, cocoa nuts, sugar, melons, citrons, &c. besides timber for fuel, and other uses. Its length is about three leagues, breadth one, and compass about seven or eight, and has a good commodious haven on the South side; and some good springs and small rivers of fresh water.

There is a strong castle on an eminence, and a fort on the mouth of the channel, and on the entrance into the river *Tamarica*, is the capital town, called *Nostra Signora da Conceizoo* or *da Ita-*

marica, and over it the castle above mentioned, and a redoubt to command the avenues. The whole district is populous, and contains upwards of sixty sugar mills, and possesses a trade of a very brisk kind.

7. *Captainrick of Pernambuco.*

This province, which is one of the most considerable in Brasil, was so called by the Portuguese; it reaches sixty leagues along the Eastern coast, and a considerable way into the inland. It has numerous towns, the most considerable of which are *Olinda* and *Garazu*.

There are several fine rivers in the Captainrick, besides those two which bound it South and North.

The most of them is called *Capi-baribi*, and rises a good way in the inland.

The whole province abounds with variety of fruits, pasture grounds and cattle; and the lower grounds near the rivers, produce great plenty of sugar: and it is observeable, that during the rainy seasons, the heat is more tolerable in the day than the cold in the night.

In regard to the towns, *Olinda* once the famed capital of this government, and seated on the northern part of it, at a small distance from *Arracife*, where *was* its harbour, was a place of great note and traffic, and had a jesuits college, the building of which cost above 1200,000 livers.

There were also convents for the Benedictines, Carmelites, Franciscans, Capuchins, &c. and many other public edifices of great beauty and cost.

However the capital of the Captainrick is now called *Pernambuco*: a city of great strength and magnitude, and commanding a port and harbour, which it renders secure from the attempts of any adversary.

Aracife is another town of consequence, as also is *Garazu* and *St. Antonia*, which are seated in the most fertile parts of the Captainrick.

There are various other towns; the last I shall name is that of *St. Paul*, which stands farthest up in

the inland and is reckoned a place of great wealth and pleasure, and where strangers are sure to experience the greatest degree of politeness and hospitality. Indeed all the towns are well inhabited, and exhibit a luxury and abundance unknown to the bulk of mankind, in the exhausted countries of Europe.

The produce and trade is similar to that of the provinces already enumerated.

8. *The Captainrick of Seregipe.*

Is called from a river of its name, which runs almost through the middle of it, and empties itself into the Ocean, between the mouths

of two other rivers, called *Guaratiba* and *Vazaharis*.

Seregipe extends itself along the Eastern coast 32 leagues exclusive of its windings, that is, from $10^{\circ}.40^m$, to $11^{\circ}.50^m$ of South latitude, from $36^{\circ}.25^m$ of West longitude, up a goad into the inland. It is divided into several inferior districts, on which sugar and tobacco plantations are conducted.

In this province is the famous mountain called Tabaina, which has furnished several samples of ore, particularly of silver, but which are not at present much looked after.

The chief town is Seregipe, distinguished by the title of del Rey. It is finely seated on the north side of the river *Vazaharis* on a rising

ground, seven leagues from the sea, and eleven North from *Rio Real*.

9. *The Captainrick of Bahia de Tados Los Santos, or Bay of All Saints.*

This province has its name from a large bay which the sea there makes, about two leagues and a half over, and in some places twelve, in others eighteen fathoms deep, intersected with a number of small but delightful islands, producing among other things abundance of cotton.

This bay lies under the 11th, 12th, and 13th degree of South latitude, and 37°, 38°, and 39°, of West longitude.

The Captainrick is divided on the North from that of Seregipe, by the *Rio Riab*, which empties itself into the Ocean in latitude 11° , 45^m . and West longitude, 37° , and has on the South that of *Los Ilheos*; on the South East the Ocean, and on the West the nations of the *Gurares*, *Tacuhes*, and *Tupenam-boes*, who inhabit the Southern banks of the Royal River above mentioned.

This province reaches along the coast above sixty-five leagues, exclusive of its windings, and is reckoned one of the richest and most considerable in all Brasil. It produces abundance of cotton, and such plenty of sugar, that it is found cultivated sixty or seventy miles above the bay, and in other extensive tracts in the inland parts

and along the coasts in every direction, where some ambergrease is also collected.

This beautiful bay is in some measure divided into sundry branches or channels, and runs into the Continent to the depth of about fourteen leagues, which is of vast advantage to all the inhabitants around it, and receives three large rivers from the inland. The first, which is nearest to the city of *St. Salvador*, is called *Pitangi*, and the other two *Geresipa* and *Cachocra*.

The bay opens towards the South, and runs to the Northward, and at the entrance into it, the Continent of Brasil opens to the right, and the long island of *TapERICA* to the

left; which last helps to secure the mouth of the bay, it being above three leagues wide between it and the *Terra Firma*, and on the point of it stands the fort of *St. Antonio*, and the small town of *Veya* or Old City, within which a point of land forms an inlet like a half-moon, on which is erected the metropolis of all the Brasils, called San Salvador.

The *City of San Salvador* is the residence of the governor and archbishop of it. It is large, rich, and well built, but stands on so disadvantageous and uneven ground, that it is unfavorable to trade and business.

The plan of the upper town is regularly drawn, but though the streets are strait and of a good

breadth, most of them have so steep a descent, that they are impracticable for coaches and chairs; to supply which defect, the rich, who are no less ambitious to distinguish themselves from the rest of mankind, by shewing themselves above using those legs which nature has given them to walk on, cause themselves to be carried about in beds of fine cotton, hanging to the ends by a long pole, which two negroes carry either on their heads or shoulders.

The bed is covered with a tester or canopy, to which are hung some curtains to draw close or open as suits the person so effeminately carried.

Thus lying along at his ease, and his head reclined on a soft velvet

pillow, the proud sluggard is carried about more voluptuously than we are in coaches or sedans.

However, this irregular and inconvenient situation does not hinder it from being one of the trading and richest cities in the country, and I may add, that it contributes most to the strength of it, as it is nearly impregnable; nature having, it seems, formed ditches and out-works flanking one another in such a manner, that the ground might be disputed inch by inch. To which art has added forts, castles, redoubts, &c. &c.

The town and forts are generally garrisoned by ten companies of regular forces, maintained by the general government, all well armed, disciplined, clothed, and paid, and want

only the reputation of being good soldiers.

The commerce of St. Salvador is very considerable, consisting in woollen and linen cloths of all sorts, hats, stockings, wheat, barley, meal, biscuit, port wine, household and kitchen furniture, Guinea slaves, &c. oil, cheese, beef, and pork salted; in lieu of which they export gold, sugar, tobacco, snuff, Brasil wood, hides, tallow, balsam of capivy, ipecacuana, and other physical drugs, &c.

These are conveyed up and down from the lower to the upper city upon sledges, which are drawn by cranes turned by slaves, and tied with strong cable ropes; and the ascent being steep, and about one hundred and forty fathoms in length,

the way is *boarded* all along, that the sledges may meet nothing to obstruct their way.

Manners, &c.

The inhabitants that are above the common rank are very civil and courteous, but the lower kind are intolerably insolent, and the soldiery are the worst of all, being given to all manner of vice, and some of them dangerous assassins.

The women are kept even more strictly than they are in Portugal, not having the liberty of stirring out unless on Sundays or holy-days to mass, and to which they are compelled to repair by break of day; and the husbands carry their jealousy to such a height, that they

make it a point of honour to stab or poison their wives, if they discover them in any intrigue; nevertheless, nature works so powerfully in the other sex, heightened by the too great restraint, that they find means to elude the watchfulness of their keepers, and run the risk of their fathers' or husbands resentment for the sake of a favourite intrigue; in so much that these murders happen more frequently than one would suppose, considering the danger, and the annals of this city exhibit thirty evidences of this nature happening in one year.

The parents are not so cruel to their amorous daughters, but content themselves with turning them out of doors when they cannot palliate their shame.

The generality of the people are rich and much given to traffic, yet many of the wealthy burghers are ambitious of breeding some of their sons to the church, in which case the candidate is obliged to prove himself an old Christian, that is, of a family that has never been tainted with *Judaism* or *Moorism*.

Buildings, &c.

I have to take notice of the unevenness of the streets of the city; in other respects the houses are handsomely built, most of brick or stone, high and capacious, and richly furnished.

There are about three thousand edifices, but the streets are commonly filled with the most disagree-

able objects, such as those that are carried about in glittering hammocks, by negroes, almost naked, except a small cloth round their middle, and a much greater number of them of women as well as men, and in the same indecent garb, and employed by the proud and lazy, even by some of low rank, in the vilest and most laborious works, so that the streets are crowded with those poor wretches sweating under their burdens, and labouring under the most insupportable slavery.

But what is still more shocking to persons of common humanity, is to see shops and other open places filled with those miserable creatures, exposed to public sale, both sexes entirely naked, like common

cattle, and over whom the owners have the same power.

Notwithstanding this state of society, there is a real appearance of religion in the city. It is crowded with sumptuous churches, monasteries, &c. They are built as well as any in Europe, and adorned with every thing that is rich and costly, or can dazzle the eyes of the beholders.

These they spare no means to beautify and enrich, though most of their wealth arising from the sweat and labour of those oppressed creatures, it is hardly to be expected that their free-will offerings of this kind will meet with any favorable acceptance from that Supreme Being who delights in mercy rather than sacrifice.

The upper town is adorned with many such splendid structures, the most considerable of which is the cathedral, which bearing the title of *San Salvador*, has given its name to the town. And not only adorned with fine carvings, gildings, &c. within and without, but is enriched with crosses, lamps, candlesticks, and other church utensils of very great value, and so large and heavy, that some of them are more than three men can carry.

In front is an open platform, whence is seen the whole bay, islands, &c. which forms, perhaps, as fine a point of view as any other in the world, and yields a noble prospect.

Adjoining to it is the hospital, another fine building, and well endowed.

North of the cathedral stands the old college of the Jesuits, whose church was built of marble brought from Europe.

The monasteries in the upper town, as those of the Carmelites, Benedictines, Franciscans, Augustins, and Capuchins, are also very splendid, as is the nunnery of the Incarnation, and numerous chapels and oratorios suited to the superstition of the inhabitants.

The palace of the viceroy is a most sumptuous building. That of the archbishop is little inferior to it, and the courts of judicature, hospitals, and other public structures, accord with the wealth of the place, whose great traffic is still much enhanced by its correspondence with *Rio de Janiero*, near which the gold

mines called *Paulistas* are, which render that metal more common in this bay ; of which the wealthy inhabitants fail not to make a great parade : for though they are forbid to wear any gold or silver lace, they shew forth their wealth not only by wearing ornaments of massive gold, such as beads, little images, medals, &c. but likewise hang them about their black female slaves, who go commonly bedecked with gold chains several times round their necks, large bracelets, ear-rings, pendants, crosses, plates of gold on their foreheads, and other similar costly ornaments.

The bay of All Saints is in general rich and populous, but is neither healthy to the inhabitants, nor much less to the *new comers*, on account of the excessive heat of the climate.

Neither is it a good place for ships to put in, especially in winter, not only because of the excessive rains it is then exposed to, but also on account of the scarcity and badness of the provisions.

The wine and meat brought from Europe, being much worse for the voyage, and fish, fowl, and other provisions being dear and scarce, the fruits and greens being eaten up by the vast quantities of pismires which infest the ground, and which the unaccountable supineness of the Portuguese will not suffer them to rid themselves of as they do in other places, so that these insects are grown to such a height as to be the bane of all agriculture..

The Portuguese are so addicted to the cultivating of their sugar and

tobacco, that some masters have above one thousand slaves employed in it, whose labour is so hard, and sustenance so small, that they are reckoned to live long if they hold it out seven years.

So great is the application to this trade, that no care is taken to sow or plant any thing else, which makes all provisions excessive dear; the fish, though they abound in the sea, because there is none will be at the pains to catch them, and the flesh because the pasture is so far off, that the cattle either die by the way, or is merely carrion by that time it is brought to town, are equally scarce and dear objects.

The natives in the vicinity of the bay are very docile, and ready to

embrace the Christian religion, and when converted, continue very zealous and devout.

The Court of Portugal, contrary to the policy of other crowns, does not permit strangers to resort there to carry away the product of the country, though they would buy it with specie, much less to carry their goods to sell or exchange; in this respect Portugal has been more strictly served than Spain.

This regulation is founded on two good reasons; the first, to oblige and encourage the Portuguese to rouse themselves from their natural pride and indolence, and by that means to procure them all the profit of the commerce. The second, and chiefest, to prevent the duties on all commodities being sunk by the vice-

roys and governors. For all ships having been obliged to come and unlade at Lisbon, directly before the palace, nothing could escape the customs.

But notwithstanding all these precautions, and severe penalties, strangers have found means to elude them by getting in league with the monks, who are naturally covetous and intriguing, as well as in high esteem and authority; and this is the case, not only in Brasil, but all over the Portuguese and Spanish dominions.

4. *The Captainrick of Ilheos.*

It is so called from the several islands lying before the main bay of

it, on one of which stands the capital of the same name.

It is divided from Bahia on the north by the river *Serinhaim*; on the south from *Porto Seguro*, by that called *Rio Grande*, and has the ocean on the east; and the *Vaymores* and *Querigujas*, two native nations on the west. It has other rivers which cross it from west to east, and contribute to its wealth and fertility.

The chief towns are *Ilheos* the capital, *Nostra Signora da Vitoria*, *St. Anna* and *St. George*, besides which there are many hamlets and sugar plantations.

The city of *Ilheos* stands about thirty leagues north east from

Porto Seguro, and about the same distance south-west from the bay of All Saints, in latitude $15^{\circ}. 40''$. south, and longitude $34^{\circ}. 28''$. west. It consists of about three hundred Portuguese families, and is watered by a river of its name.

The inhabitants are chiefly employed in commerce and in cultivating plantations and conveying their produce by sea to Punambuco and other provinces.

About seven leagues west from the city is a lake of fresh water, about three leagues in length and breadth, and about fifteen fathom deep, out of which issues a river, which runs eastward into the ocean, but the mouth of which is so narrow, that it admits none but boats of small burden into the lake.

The fish of it is very good and in great plenty, particularly that which they call *Manatis*, some of which weigh from twenty to thirty pounds.

It likewise breeds that large kind which the Spanish call *Tuberones*; but the worst of all its productions is the crocodile, which preys on all, both in and out of the water, that come within its reach.

The produce of Ilheos is similar to that of the Captainricks already described.

11. *The Captainrick of Porto Seguro.*

This is the name which Peter Alvares De Cabro, or Cabral, the

first discoverer of this large continent, gave to the bay on which he was cast by a violent storm, and which it has retained ever since.

It is divided on the north from that of *Ilheos* by the *Rio Grande*; on the south by *Rio Dolce*, and from that of *Espiritu Santo*; on the east it has the ocean; and on the west the nation called *Tupiques*.

The only town worth mentioning is the capital, named *Porto Seguro*.

It is situate on the mouth of a small river, and on the top of a white rock, near which is a very high land, seen at a great distance to the northward, and ending in a flat strand.

It contains about seven hundred Portuguese families, whose chief employ depends on selling provisions along the coast ; for they have plenty of every thing, though but a small quantity of sugar, and few mills for making it.

12. *Captainrick of Del Eespiritu Santo.*

So called from its capital, is parted on the north by the *Rio Dulce* from *Porto Seguro* ; and on the south by that of *Rio de Janeiro* ; and has the ocean on the east, and the nations of the *Margajates*, *Topagas*, *Amexocores*, *Tupinamas*, *Tomomimi*, &c. on the west.

This government is reckoned the most fertile and abundant in pro-

visions of any in Brasil, it having an incredible plenty and variety of fish and game, its low lands being intersected with rivers, which render them very rich and fertile, and the high ones with large woods and forests, which breed all sort of wild beasts and fowl.

The most considerable river is that of Parayba, which falls into the ocean in $21^{\circ} 30^m$. of latitude south.

The town of *Espiritu Santo*, the capital, and the only considerable town in the government, is situated on the right side of a bay, on the same eastern coast, and about three leagues from the ocean.

It contains about two hundred and fifty Portuguese families, and has a small castle of but little strength to defend them.

It possesses, notwithstanding, churches and monasteries of great wealth, and other public buildings.

The whole government has but ten sugar mills, but abounds with cotton and Brasil wood, with which it carries on a considerable commerce.

13. *Captainrick of Rio de Janeiro.*

Is the next in course joining to to that of *Espiritu Santo* on the north, and to that of St. Vincent on the south, and extending it-

self along the coast from *Caba de St. Thoma* to that of *Ubatuba*, on the west of the bay of that name.

I took notice in the general description of the Brazilian coasts, that they extend themselves eastward from the mouth of the river of the *Amazons* to the Cape of St. Rock, thence bent their course southward down to Cape Frio in this province, and now begin to wind from east to west, from thence quite to Cape St. Vincent; so that this Captainrick is bounded on the east from Cape St. Thomas to that of Frio; and on the south from thence to St. Vincent by the main ocean, and has on the north that of Espiritu Santo; and on the north west the nations of *Guaitiques*, *Arasses*, and *Tupinikins*.

The rivers of the province are but few and scarce of any note, except that of *Janeiro*, which has its course from North to South, and forms a capacious bay.

This river, which is rather a gulph or bay, the water of it being salt, has its mouth guarded by strong forts, and by a parcel of small islands, between which vessels are forced to sail, and which render the entrance difficult. As one advances farther in, one meets with a straight through which one must pass, which is bounded on the left or West side, with a pyramidal rock; and a little farther up is another rock, about one hundred and twenty yards in compass, called the Rake.

Next is met an island about half a league round, and surrounded by rocks, which prevent the vessels coming nearer to it than within cannon-shot; so that it is naturally very strong: even small barges cannot come up to it but by a small haven which faces the inland.

The river abounds in fish and oysters, and about four or five leagues above the island last mentioned, is another beautiful island well inhabited, and called *Isle Grande*.

The city of *Rio de Janeiro*, so called from the river above described, and by the Portuguese *St. Sebastian*, in honor of their monarch of that name, is surrounded by mountains, and protected by four forts and other works of strength.

It lies in length the whole extent of the bay, but has very little breadth, and is without walls or ramparts.

The town is divided into three parts, in the first of which, called the upper, stands the best church and the college built by the Jesuits, and founded by Sebastian king of Portugal; the second, or lower, is the valley, and is called St. Anthony's Ward; and the third, or lowermost, runs along the edge of the bay from the castle up the land to the Monastery of *San Bento* or *Benedito*.

Rio de Janeiro is a colony of much later date than those I have gone through, but it is rising into consequence every day, and must

rapidly flourish now that it is the residence of the Portugal family. Nor shall I dwell on its description, as we shall be so shortly furnished with accounts of its population, &c. &c.

The trade is similar to that conducted at St. Salvador, but more gold enters into its principle.

The colony was anciently inhabited by a wild nation called *Tupenamboes*, who were all either destroyed or forced to flee further into the inland.

Those Indians who now inhabit it are of a different kind, and seem rather a mixture and refuse of nations, and who are no better than a kind of slaves to the Portuguese.

14. *The Captainrick of*
St. Vincent.

This is the most Southern government of Brasil, it beginning near the tropic of Capricorn, and extending itself from thence Southward as far as the 27° of latitude.

It has the *Rio Janeiro* on the East, and the republic of St. Paul, with some wild nations on the north; on the South and South-East the Main Ocean, and on the West part of Paraguay.

This province abounds in towns, hamlets, and settlements of great wealth and importance, and has various rivers passing through it

in every direction, which enrich and fertilize the country and soil. But these objects are too numerous to describe. I shall confine myself to fewer heads.

The town of *St. Vincent* is situated on the island of Santos, and on the Western coast of it, about three or four leagues from a town of that name.

Though the capital of the province, it is but an inconsiderable place, containing about one hundred and fifty houses, which however are well built.

The harbour is bad. It lies under latitude $23^{\circ} 40^m$ South, and West longitude $45^{\circ} 10^m$. and about

seventy-six leagues South West of
Rio de Janeiro.

The town of *Santos* stands about three leagues from the sea, defended by a rampart on the side next the river, which is there half a league over, and about five fathoms deep.

It is likewise guarded by two castles, one on the South side, and the other in the middle of the town, which does not contain above four hundred inhabitants, partly Portuguese and partly *Mastichoes*; it has one parish church, one monastery of monks and a convent.

The port is admirably calculated for the reception of large ships, and for the promotion of commerce.

The whole colony of Santos consists of about fifteen hundred inhabitants, mostly descended from intermarriages with the Indian women converted and governed by monks, who have got the best of the land in their hands, and keep a great number of slaves, besides some Indian cantons, which pay them a tribute in specie which they get out of some mines found on the mountains between Santos and the republic of St. Paul.

The most remarkable place in this Captainrick, is the town and republic of St. Paul, which lies about ten leagues north of Santos, in the interior, and is surrounded by high and inaccessible mountains, and by the impregnable forest of *Pernabacaba*.

The republic owes its origin to a mixture of nations, that lived at first without religion, laws, faith, or honesty, but whom necessity drove into this kind of government.

It consists of priests, monks, Spaniards, Portuguese, Creoles, Mastichoes, and Cariboocos, which last are the offspring of a Brazilian and a Negro, Mulattos, &c.

The whole republic consisted at first of no more than about one hundred families, all which put together, might amount to about three and four hundred souls, including the Indians and slaves; but has within these sixty and seventy years increased to above twenty times that number.

They call themselves a free people, and scorn to be subject to the Portuguese, who on their side content themselves with the tribute of a fifth part of the gold dug in their territory, and is computed to amount to sixteen hundred marks, per annum.

The tyranny of the Brazilian governors is what gave birth to this little state, which is grown now so jealous of its liberty, that no stranger is suffered to set foot within its dominions ; and every time they send their small tribute to the governor, they take care to signify that it is done out of respect to, and not out of submission or fear of the king of Portugal.

They have some rich mines of gold and silver, and by no means

pay any thing like a fifth to the king.

This the government are aware of, but what can they do with a people inhabiting inaccessible mountains, and who are for ever fortifying those passes, which they think not to be strong enough by nature ?

As for their capital of St. Paul, from which the republic takes its name, and the people called Paulists, it arose, like the little state, and from a low beginning, has become a place of consideration and wealth.

The Paulists are now rich and powerful. Their country is hot, being situated under the twenty-fifth degree of south latitude, but is

cooled by the air from the mountains, in so much that there is some frost in winter.

Their soil produces good wheat, and is very proper for feeding large cattle.

Nothing is wanted but salt, wine, and oil: and to supply themselves with these commodities, is attended with great difficulty and expense.

The town is situate on an eminence, at the foot of which run two small rivers, one coming from the south, and the other from the west, and falling into the *Inhiambi* near the town.

This river, which is well stored with fish, comes down from the

famed mountains of *Paranepiacaba*, and flows towards the west.

These mountains are remarkable strait and spacious, and the ascent up to them, which takes up three or four hours, is somewhat difficult, being cut out between the trees in the form of steps, and is about one hundred yards wide.

From the top of these mountains, the road which leads to the republic of St. Paul, runs at first to the south, and then at once turns strait westward, through ridges of hills and large forests, the space of six or seven leagues.

It was on these mountains that the Portuguese found some gold mines, which were at first thought considerable, but since came to lit-

tle or nothing, or rather have been seized by the Paulists, they being in their neighbourhood, if not in their territory. However the Portuguese have since discovered many superior mines in various parts of the country.

I have now nothing left to speak of in Brasil, except some islands on the coast of this Captainrick ; I shall only speak of *Cananca*, and *St. Cathrines*.

Cananca is a small oblong island, spreading itself like a current before the coast over against the small bay formed by the mouth of the river *Acarapirau*, on the southern side of which stands the town of Cananca, which seems built to guard the entrance of the bay.

The island lies about the distance of thirty-seven leagues from St. Vincent in south latitude twenty-five and west longitude $46^{\circ} . 50^m$.

The island of *St. Catherine* lies about forty-seven leagues south of *Cananea*, and on the same eastern coast. It is considerable, and being the place of call for our ships, merits attention. It extends itself from north to south, the length of about twenty-five miles, that is, from $27^{\circ} . 27^m$. to $27^{\circ} . 52^m$. and is a continued grove of trees, which enjoy a perpetual verdure, but has no places in it passable but what have been cleared about the dwellings; that is, sixty or eighty spots scattered along the shore in the creeks facing the Continent, and inhabited by Portuguese, some European fugitives, and a few blacks, and some

Indians, who either come voluntary to serve, or have been taken in war.

The inhabitants acknowledge themselves subject to the king of Portugal, and obey the governor or captain he appoints over them, but pay no tribute to him, and only assist him on occasions against his enemies.

The governor is subordinate to the governor of *Lagoa*, a small town twelve leagues distant from the island to the south south-west.

The inhabitants enjoy a wholesome air, a good climate, a good share of health, being seldom troubled with any disorder except the head-ache, occasioned by costiveness, which is commonly at-

tended with a *tenasmus*, for which however they have some effectual remedies among their vegetables and simples, of which they have a great variety, and among them the sassafras and *guaiacum*.

Their fruit trees are also excellent, and of various kinds, especially their oranges, lemons, and citrons.

The *Guayava* cabbage, banana and cotton trees, sugar canes, melons, turnsoils, &c. grow to great perfection, and the potatoes are esteemed the best in the world.

I conclude this rapid description with a short account of the island of *Madeira* now in our possession.

THE
ISLAND OF MADEIRA.

MADEIRA signifies a wood or forest, was thus called by the Portuguese, because it was overgrown with trees, when first discovered by Joan Gonzalez and Tristan Vaz, in the year 1429.

It was called by the ancients *Cerne Atlantice*, and lies under the thirty-second degree of north lati-

tude, and under the seventeenth and eighteenth of longitude West from London.

It is about twenty leagues in length, seven or eight in breadth, and forty-eight in circumference.

The air is far more moderate than in the Canary Islands, and the soil more fertile, in corn, wine, sugar, and fruits, being much better watered by five or six little rivers; but is alike stored with the same sort of cattle, plants, and trees, from which is extracted the *sanguis draconis*, *mastic*, and other gums. In fact the island lies under an enchanted climate.

There is a perpetual spring and tepid water, which produces blos-

soms and fruits every month in the year.

The lemons are of a monstrous size, as are oranges of all sorts.

Fruit trees from Europe thrive in perfection.

The finest sweetmeats are made in the world, and the people succeed wonderfully in preserving large citrons and beautiful oranges, and in making marmalades, and perfumed pastes.

There are several sugar plantations, and the sugar is extremely fine, and smells naturally of violets.

It is the first place in the West where the manufactory of sugar

was set on foot, and from thence it has been carried into America. But vines are now the chief cultivation.

They produce capital wine, which foreigners buy up, leaving the Portuguese an immense profit.

They make in the whole Island about thirty-six thousand pipes of wine, twelve thousand are there drank, and the rest exported for the most part to the West Indies and America.

The chief town is Funchal. It is well fortified towards the sea, but not on the land side.

It stands at the foot of a high hill, and is of a narrow long form.

The churches are beautiful and well built, enriched with fine pictures, gildings, and plate.

They are said to be the rendezvous where people meet on business, quite remote from the devotion and holiness of the place.

The town is very populous. But the natural Portuguese do not make up the greatest number of inhabitants, for there are a great many French and British Roman Catholics, who live after the Portuguese manner, besides a great number of Mulattoes, and of negroes both free and slaves.

The streets are drawn by a line, and the houses well built.

The city is the see of a bishop, who has the whole island under his spiritual jurisdiction, and is suffragan to the archbishop of Lisbon. It is also generally the residence of the governor.

The road is very bad for ships to ride in, though they may do so within pistol shot of the town, because the boisterous South West winds often force them from their anchors, and they must of necessity make out to sea, to avoid two islands called *Desiertas*.

There is another town called *Manchico*, with a church dedicated under the name of Santa Couz, or the Holy Cross, whence the town is called by some of that name; and there is also a convent of Bernardine Friars.

There is also another town called *Mencerito*, and the island abounds in settlements, hamlets, churches, hermitages, chapels, oratorios, &c. &c. &c.

All European nations *did* trade with Madeira, and received in exchange for their commodities, wine, wax, oranges, lemons, *pomegranates*, and citrons. But being now in our possession, I have no occasion to dwell on the subject, as we shall be furnished with daily accounts and from recent authorities.

FINIS.

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